

LEGAL

City Attorneys represent the City's interests in all courts in New Mexico, before administrative bodies and other tribunals including legislative bodies, and are responsible for oversight of the civil lawsuits filed against all City Departments. In addition to trial work, the legal services division advises clients on "liability avoidance" in all employment matters, protection of environmental resources, the management of risk in the operation of City services, land use and civil rights matters. To improve neighborhood quality of life and public safety, the safe city strike force program targets properties that pose an extreme nuisance to the neighborhoods and surrounding communities, initiates graffiti vandalism lawsuits and DWI vehicle forfeitures. Attorneys assigned to the safe city strike force also oversee the metropolitan traffic court arraignment program, which negates the need for police officers to be present at traffic arraignments. The Legal Department, through its real property division, is responsible for the management, acquisition, disposal, and coordination of City real property. Finally, the Legal Department's utility franchising office is responsible for negotiating franchise renewals, providing consumer protection to cable subscribers and serves as contract manager for the education and public access channels. The utility franchising office merged with legal services program strategy in FY/05.

MISSION

To provide timely and quality legal services at a reasonable cost to the Mayor's Office, City Council and City agencies and to represent the City of Albuquerque in litigation in state and federal courts and administrative hearings.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

The FY/07 proposed budget for the Legal Department has a growth of 20.9%. The majority of this growth is attributed to moving the City Clerks Office into Legal. The city clerks program was created with 19 positions and is budgeted at \$1.05 million. The new program will be responsible for governing the custody and preservation of all City records, administering the Public Records Act, conducting municipal elections, and supporting and staffing various City Boards. As with other Departments, a 3.5% increase in employee compensation is included.

A legal secretary position working with the safe city strike force will move to the Chief Administrative Officer Department assigned to the Administrative Hearing Office. To better serve the functions of the metro traffic court program two assistant city attorneys were reclassified into two paralegals and two senior administrative assistants during FY/06.

(\$000's)	ACTUAL FY/05	ORIGINAL BUDGET FY/06	REVISED BUDGET FY/06	ESTIMATED ACTUAL FY/06	PROPOSED BUDGET FY/07	PROP 07/ EST ACT 06 CHG
PROGRAM STRATEGY BY GOAL:						
GOAL 2: PUBLIC SAFETY						
<u>GENERAL FUND 110</u>						
Safe City Strike Force	871	947	947	945	1,043	98
TOTAL GOAL - 2	871	947	947	945	1,043	98
GOAL 7: COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT						
<u>GENERAL FUND 110</u>						
City Clerk	0	0	0	0	1,050	1,050
TOTAL GOAL - 7	0	0	0	0	1,050	1,050
GOAL 8: GOVERNMENTAL EXCELLENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS						
<u>GENERAL FUND 110</u>						
Legal Services	4,607	5,048	5,202	5,017	5,229	212
Real Property	453	498	498	476	525	49
Total General Fund - 110	5,060	5,546	5,700	5,493	5,754	261
TOTAL GOAL - 8	5,060	5,546	5,700	5,493	5,754	261
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	5,931	6,493	6,647	6,438	7,847	1,409
TOTAL FULL TIME POSITIONS	77	78	78	80	98	18

